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Middlewich Urban District  
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year

1950

by the

Medical Officer of Health



# MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Health Report for 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1950.

### Section A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,956 acres
Population—Registrar General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,672
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,916
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£29,867
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 116 9s. 5d.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General:

Live Births:—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	114	54	60
Illegitimate .....	2	2	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17.38.

Still Births:—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	2	2	—
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births, 16 94.

	TOTAL	M	F
Deaths .....	80	43	37

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population,  
11.99.

After adjustment by the Comparability Factor, 12.82.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ..... 51.72

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live  
births ..... 52.63

Deaths from:—

Cancer (all ages) ..... 9

The following table compares the main statistics for 1950  
with the years 1939-1949:—

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infants Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuber- culosis
1939 ...	6,202	14.67	12.24	54.9	5	3
1940 ...	6,199	13.87	13.84	58.13	12	—
1941 ...	6,435	18.18	10.72	58.82	10	1
1942 ...	6,254	20.94	10.71	53.43	7	4
1943 ...	6,097	20.82	10.82	23.62	9	1
1944 ...	6,020	21.59	12.62	38.46	12	6
1945 ...	5,926	21.26	11.47	55.55	11	2
1946 ...	6,206	21.10	9.82	22.90	8	2
1947 ...	6,372	27.46	11.45	40.00	11	3
1948 ...	6,576	19.6	9.12	23.81	10	1
1949 ...	6,587	14.7	9.41	10.3	10	3
1950 ...	6,672	17.38	11.99	51.72	9	1



## CAUSES OF DEATH—1950

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

	M.	F.	Total
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	—	1	1
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Diseases .....	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	1	—	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	1	—	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	—	1	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	—	—	—
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	7	3	10
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	—	—	—
16. Diabetes .....	—	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	7	5	12
18. Coronary Disease, Angina .....	6	2	8
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	2	—	2
20. Other Heart Disease .....	7	12	19
21. Other Circulatory Disease .....	1	2	3
22. Influenza .....	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia .....	1	—	1
24. Bronchitis .....	2	—	2
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations .....	—	3	3
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	4	3	7
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	—	—	—
34. All Other Accidents .....	2	2	4
35. Suicide .....	—	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	43	37	80

# Section B—General Provision of Health Services of the Area

## (A) PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### (1) Staff

W. S. SLATER, M B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P , D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	(Services shared by the other 3 Mid-Cheshire Districts, the County Council & the Regional Hospital Board).
Sister I. D. Rogerson (Resigned, July, 1950)	Trained Nurse (part-time) (Scabies & Diphtheria Immunisa- tion).	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid-Ches- hire Districts and the County Council).
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole- time)	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid-Ches- hire Districts).
F. Costello, A.R., San. I., Cert. S I.B., Cert. Insp. of Meat and other Foods	Whole-time Sanitary Inspector	(Middlewich Urban District Council only).

### (2) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Middlewich Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year.

### (3) Environmental Services

Details of the other Services, e.g Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Middlewich Urban District Council are recorded later in this report.

## **(B) PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services:—School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic Ophthalmic, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services.

## **(C) PROVIDED BY THE MID-CHESHIRE DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**(under the auspices of the County Council)**

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee provided the following Services:—

### **(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes**

The work done during the year 1950 in Middlewich Urban District is detailed as follows:—

#### **Diphtheria Immunisation**

No. of children who have completed treatment during 1950 .....	68
--	----

#### **Vaccinations**

No. of children who have been vaccinated during 1950 .....	15
--	----

Immunisation against Whooping Cough .....	Nil
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The Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme was curtailed during the year owing to the prevalence of Infantile Paralysis in the country. It was thought advisable to discontinue mass immunisation from July until the end of October.

A certain number of children received the protective treatment at their own Doctors' Surgeries and at home. The protective treatments against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free service under the National Health Service Act.

### **(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service**

1950 has seen a further increase in calls on the Service, without any corresponding increase in staff. A simple example of this increased demand can be cited as follows:—

1036 patients were removed in 9 weeks during Nov./Dec. 1949.

1078 patients were removed in 6 weeks during Nov./Dec. 1950.

At the close of 1950 some 19 private taxi firms were employed regularly in carrying patients on behalf of the Service.

Two new ambulances were put into service in the area during the year, 1 Humber Pullman and 1 Morris. Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining replacements for parts in the old vehicles and at the end of the year 2 vehicles, both 14 years old, had to be taken off the road.

The Ambulance Staff at the close of the year was:—

- 1—Supervisor.
- 1—Senior Driver.
- 6—Drivers.
- 2—Attendants.

The above team travelled 152,674 miles during the year under all kinds of road conditions and I think should be congratulated on covering such a high mileage without serious mishap or breakdown.

Several long distance journeys have been undertaken in the year and in two cases, one to London and one to Durham, the services of the British Railways were used. I would like to state how co-operative the Staff of British Railways were on both occasions.

The Mid-Cheshire Ambulance Depot is situated at Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich

#### (c) Prevention of Illness—Care and After Care

The work of the Committee under this Section has dealt mainly with Tuberculosis After Care, in addition to the Care of the Sick and Aged and to a lesser degree with the After Care of mental cases. A variety of medical equipment and comforts were provided for the use of the sick in a number of homes during the year.

#### (d) Domestic Help Service

The Domestic Help Service in the Mid-Cheshire area as a whole has expanded considerably during 1950 and Helps have been provided as follows: —

March Quarter	.....	32 cases
June	„ .....	34 „
September	„ .....	38 „
December	„ .....	55 „



Oddly enough, whilst calls on this service have been particularly heavy in the other parts of Mid-Cheshire, no Middlewich households have sought assistance under the Scheme during 1950.

#### (D) ISOLATION HOSPITAL SERVICES

Davenham Isolation Hospital under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee provided hospital treatment for the area's infectious cases and during the year admitted 14 patients from the Middlewich Urban District.

## Section C—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

### Water Supply

The Town's Public Water Supply was maintained during the year in a satisfactory condition, and with one exception all the 1,916 houses were supplied by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, which also carried out mains extensions, etc. Two properties were taken from a private supply and connected to the Board's mains during the year.

A sample of water tested from the supply to the only property not connected to the mains, proved satisfactory.

There are no standpipes in the district.

In addition, copies of 11 reports on the Town's Supply have been furnished to me by the Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board. All were satisfactory.

### Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year the sewers were extended, as follows:—

New Housing Site— Alexandra Road	Foul Sewer	357 yds. of 9in. pipes
	„ „ Storm Water	24 yds. of 6in. pipes
	Sewer	330 yds. of 9in. pipes
	do.	51 yds. of 6in. pipes
New Housing Site— Chadwick Fields, Chadwick Road	Foul Sewer	33 yds. of 9in pipes
	do.	
do.	Storm Water	120 yds. of 15in. pipes
do.	do.	203 yds. of 12in. pipes
The Green	Foul Sewer	279 yds. of 9in. pipes
do.	Storm Water	
	Sewer	318 yds. of 9in. pipes

No other work beyond maintenance was carried out to the sewers or sewage works.

### **Closet Accommodation**

Two privies and 13 pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year, leaving 4 privies and 45 pails still in use.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

Collection of refuse is by means of a Shelvoke & Drewry freighter.

Informal notices were issued in respect of the renewals of 244 dustbins, all of which were complied with.

The refuse tip was free from any nuisance and good use was made of a large quantity of surplus "diggings" to cover the greater part of the area.

A total of £752 was received from salvage sales, of which £243 was profit.

### **Camping Sites**

Two sites, each for one caravan, were licensed for a period of one year.

### **Destruction of Rats and Mice**

The Council employs a Rodent Operative, but there is insufficient work to warrant his full-time services, accordingly he is employed part-time on other works, but Rodent Control takes priority.

During the year 46 treatments were given to business premises, 10 to the refuse tip and 34 to private dwelling, resulting in 360 dead rats and 273 mice. 10 per cent. of the Public Sewer manholes were baited and all excepting one were found to be free from infestation. In this manhole there was some "take" of the bait, but all manholes in the area were treated and the small infestation cleared.

The income received from the treatment of business premises amounted to £42 2s. 4d.

### **Recreational Fields and Open Spaces**

All existing playgrounds were maintained and there were no additional fields or land acquired.

## Factories Inspections

Under the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948, the following inspections were carried out:—

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	36	29	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	36	29	—	—

No defects were found by the Sanitary Inspector at the 36 Factories.

## Section D—Housing

### Provision of New Houses

The progress made in the Council's Housing Programme during the year 1950 reads as follows:—

By Local Authority:—

Permanent Houses .....	30
By Private Enterprise .....	6
	—
	36
	—

The Council's Surveyor, on the post-war housing position at the end of 1950, reports as follows:—

“ Since the War ceased and up to the end of 1950, the following properties have been completed or are under construction:—

Rolt Estate—

Permanent Houses ..... 72

Warmingham Lane Estate—

Temporary Aluminium Bungalows ..... 20

Permanent Traditional Type Houses ..... 8 completed  
40 under construction

New King Street Housing Site—

Permanent Houses ..... 30

Chadwick Fields Estate—

Houses commenced ..... 56

Bungalows under construction .. 25

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TOTAL ... 251

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The Chadwick Fields Estate is the new site of the Middlewich Urban District Council.”

During the year six houses in Oddfellows Passage were demolished, resulting from Demolition Orders made in 1949. The sites were cleared and the land added as gardens to four neighbouring houses in Pinfold Lane, which houses were re-conditioned at a cost of approx. £1,000.

5a, Chester Road —Demolition Order made in 1949—  
partly demolished at the end of the year.

Nos. 7-21, Pepper St. —8 houses—Closing Orders made in 1948. Properties became somewhat dangerous and an “eyesore” and after representations were demolished and the site cleared. The Council at the end of the year was considering a road widening at this point.

16 & 18, Brooks Lane —represented in 1949. These houses were re-conditioned by agreement with the Council and re-occupied.

11, White Horse Alley —represented in 1949—re-conditioned and re-let by agreement with the Council.



1-3 & 5, Newton Bank —represented in 1948. Agreed by the Council that a plan for converting into a lock-up shop and closed as habitations be approved.

The houses of the district were adequately inspected during the course of the year by the Sanitary Inspector, and the following notices were complied with:—

Defective drains .....	11
Defective closets .....	19
Repairs to roofs and spouting .....	17
Bedroom floors .....	6
Other floors .....	9
Defective firegrates .....	5
New windows .....	4
Repairs to windows .....	12
Defective plasterwork .....	8
Renewal of defective sinks .....	3
Walls cement rendered or pointed .....	13
Renewal of dustbins .....	244
Closet conversions .....	15
Provision of washing accommodation ...	2

In addition, two other houses were completely re-conditioned throughout.

5 Statutory Notices and 214 Informal Notices were issued during the year.

## Section E—Inspection and Supervision of Food

### (a) Milk Supply

During the year 24 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:—

#### (1) Graded Milks for compliance with prescribed standards:—

	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised Milk .....	9	—
T.T. Pasteurised Milk .....	1	—
T.T. Milk .....	7	5

(2) Cleanliness Tests of Un- graded Milks .....	—	2
TOTALS ...	17	7

Two of the above satisfactory Pasteurised samples were taken from the school milk supplies.

#### (b) Meat

There is one licensed slaughterhouse working for “casualties” and one other licensed for the slaughter of pigs. Both have been maintained in a cleanly condition.

#### Carcases Inspected and Condemned at the Casualty Slaughterhouse

	Cattle excel. Cows Cows		Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .....	4	348	6	—	1
Number inspected .....	4	348	6	—	1

#### All diseases except Tuberculosis:

Whole carcases condemned ..	—	67	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organs was condemned ..	—	65	—	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .....	—	38%	16.66%	—	—

#### Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcases condemned ..	—	37	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	74	—	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis .	—	31.9%	—	—	—

#### (c) Other Foods and Ice Cream

All premises where food is prepared or handled have been regularly inspected throughout the year and such inspections revealed a satisfactory state of affairs.

Condemnation Notes were issued in respect of the following:—

233 tins of Milk  
 2 tins Plums  
 24 tins Peas  
 17 tins Beans  
 16 tins Tomatoes  
 40 tins Luncheon Meat  
 5 tins Salmon  
 4 tins Damsons  
 3 tins Pilchards  
 38 lb. Frozen Egg  
 15 lb. Flour  
 103 lb. Sausages  
 28 lb. Cheese  
 12 lb. Butter  
 14 lb. Bacon  
 201 lb. Frozen Beef

The Health Department took 3 samples of Ice Cream during the year which were submitted to the Laboratory and all were reported upon satisfactorily.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of the samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year 1950:—

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standards of quality
Cod Liver Oil .....	1	—
Drugs (Misc.):—		
“Adrenaline Cream” .....	1	—
Gelatine (dessert) .....	1	—
Glauber Salts .....	1	—
Glycerine .....	1	—
Ice Cream .....	1	—
Milk (fresh) .....	14	—
“Sandwich Spread” .....	2	—
Vinegar (non-brewed) .....	1	—
Wheat & Honey Crunch (“Popcorn”) .....	1	—
	—	—
TOTAL ...	24	—
	—	—

Whilst the Sandbach Sanitary Inspector was on holiday, the Council’s Sanitary Inspector took over the inspection of meat at the M.O.F. Slaughterhouse at Sandbach for two weeks.

## Section F – Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases was low, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1950

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever .....	7	7	—
Dysentery .....	2	—	—
Measles .....	3	—	—

### (2) Tuberculosis

The table below details the age of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis:—

### TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1950

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—



Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
39	42	46	50	60	58	48	48	43	46	44	45

(3) Mass Radiography

Late in the year the town was visited by one of the Regional Hospital Board's mass radiography units. The local response was good; some 2,021 residents were x-rayed. More detailed information has been promised, along with information on the ultimate diagnosis and disposal of abnormal cases brought to light in the survey.

(4) Scabies and Verminous Infestation

As there appeared to be a complete disappearance of Scabies infestation in the area, the Joint Cleansing Centre which had been operating since 1942 was closed down. The premises and major items of equipment have, however, been retained should their use again ever become necessary.

(5) Disinfection of Premises

The disinfection of 18 homes was carried out during the year as follows:—

For Vermin .....	7
For Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases (plus steam disinfection or destruction of bedding where necessary) .....	11

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M R.C.S., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1951.





